UNITED STATES
PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231
www.uspto.gov

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Dear Patent Business Customer:

The United States Patent and Trademark Office ("Office") is now permitting and encouraging applicants to voluntarily submit amendments in a revised format as set forth in *AMENDMENTS IN A REVISED FORMAT NOW PERMITTED*, ____ *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* __ (February 25, 2003), currently available on the USPTO web site at **http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/revamdtprac.htm**. The revised format permits amendments to the specification and claims to be made in a single marked-up version; the requirement for a clean version is eliminated. Attached, you will find a flyer with information and instructions regarding the procedures to be used to comply with the revised format. The flyers are being inserted with out-going Office actions mailed during the period of February 20, 2003 - March 31, 2003.

The revised amendment format is essentially the same as the amendment format for the specification, claims, and drawings that the Office is considering adopting via a revision to 37 CFR 1.121 (Manner of Making Amendments). The revision to 37 CFR 1.121 (if adopted) will simplify amendment submission and improve file management. This proposed revision and others necessary to facilitate a gradual transition to the use of an Electronic File Wrapper (EFW) will be set forth in a Notice of Proposed Rule making (NPR), expected to be published by March 2003. After consideration of public comments, the Office anticipates adopting a revision to § 1.121, following publication of a Notice of Final Rule making (NFR), expected by June 2003, at which point compliance with revised § 1.121 will be mandatory.

The Office will continue to accept your amendment submissions in the revised format during the voluntary period, which will extend up to the effective date of final revisions to § 1.121. The Office also encourages your feedback on the proposed revised amendment format and other changes set forth in the NPR, expected to be published by March 2003.

For assistance: Any questions regarding the submission of amendments pursuant to the revised practice should be directed to Office of Patent Legal Administration (OPLA), Legal Advisors Elizabeth Dougherty (**Elizabeth.Dougherty@uspto.gov**), Gena Jones (**Eugenia.Jones@uspto.gov**) or Joe Narcavage (**Joseph.Narcavage@uspto.gov**). Alternately, you may send e-mail to "Patent Practice", the OPLA e-mail address that has been established for receiving queries and questions about patent practice and procedures or telephone OPLA at (703) 305-1616.

Nicholas P. Godici

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Attachment: Flyer entitled: *Revised Notice* AMENDMENTS MAY NOW BE SUBMITTED IN REVISED FORMAT*